

AUSTRALIAN COLEOPTERA.

NOTES AND NEW SPECIES. NO. X.

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[Read 27th May, 1936.]

CUCUJIDAE.

There is considerable confusion, both in collections and catalogues, in the genus *Platysus*, largely due to an initial mistake by Lacordaire (Atlas, ii, pl. 21, fig. 11) in which, under the name *P. obscurus* Er., he figures the common New South Wales species *P. angusticollis* Reitt. This mistake was repeated by Olliff (These Proc., 1885, p. 210). The Junk Catalogue has another variation of it. As pointed out by Reitter, who knew Erichson's type, *P. obscurus* Er. is quite easily distinguished from his own two species by the toothed sides of the prothorax. There is no reason for the generic separation of *P. bicolor* Oll. (= *P. (Cucujus) coloniarius* Oll.).

The list should, I think, stand as follows:

PLATISUS Er.: (1) *angusticollis* Reitt. (syn. *obscurus* Lac. (*nec* Er.)); (2) *coloniarius* Oll. (syn. *bicolor* Oll.); (3) *integricollis* Reitt.; (4) *moerosus* (*Ipsaphes*) Pasc.; (5) *obscurus* Er.

N.B.—*Ipsaphes nitidulus* Macl. = *Platycotylus inusitatus* Oll. It is also very near *Dolicema spinicollis* Fairm., but, on a re-examination of the much begummed type, I cannot detect the spines that characterize Fairmaire's species. It is not a *Platysus*, as placed in the Junk Catalogue.

HYMAEA PARALLELA, n. sp. Text-fig. 1.

Elongate, oblong; mostly nitid black, oral organs, apex of pronotum and greater part of elytra red; sparsely pilose.

Head subtriangular, eyes very prominent—less acutely so than *H. succinifera* Pasc., tumid behind eyes, front coarsely punctate, the punctures tending to coalesce longitudinally; antennae long, perfoliate, 1 very stout, 2–8 piriform, 9–10 rounded and transverse, 11 oval, longer than 10. *Prothorax* longer than wide, convex laterally, apex produced in middle, anterior angles obsolete, base truncate, hind angles obtuse, sides slightly widest behind middle, with some lateral angulations; one near front, another, at widest part, marked by a pustule. Disk coarsely punctate, the punctures tending to coalesce, their intervals rugose; some widely placed pustules, two, near middle, slightly in advance of lateral pustules. *Scutellum* transverse, oval. *Elytra* distinctly wider than prothorax at base, shoulders rather square, sides parallel for the greater part; disk rather flat, striate-punctate, the striae not well defined, the punctures large, round and close, the intervals very narrow and, in general, flat, here and there forming irregular raised lines—the 5th especially—and clothed with sparse, pale, upright

hair; the black markings in rather irregular patches; of these, two oblique patches extend from beneath the shoulders to the 3rd interval near middle; a square patch behind these at middle and one or two ill-defined streaks near base. *Underside* nitid-black, everywhere closely and strongly punctate. *Dim.* 4 mm. long.

Hab.—Victoria: Warburton (F. E. Wilson).

A narrow, elongate species, without tubercles on the elytra. Two examples, including the holotype, in the South Australian Museum.

N.B.—*H. laticollis* Cart. was described as having "head placed vertically". This was due to the setting of the type example. A second example sent me has the head inserted quite as in *H. succinifera* Pasc. My species has been omitted from the Junk Catalogue though described in 1908. The 3 species may be distinguished as follows:

Hymaea.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Pronotum without tubercles | <i>laticollis</i> Cart. |
| Pronotum with tubercles | 2 |
| 2. Elytral humeri with elongate tubercles | <i>succinifera</i> Pasc. |
| Elytral humeri without tubercles | <i>parallela</i> , n. sp. |

DASCILLIDAE.

EPILICHAS (?) NIGRINUS, n. sp.

Elongate-ovate; subnitid-black, antennae, underside and appendages red, legs testaceous.

Head: eyes large and prominent, antennae long and strongly serrated, 1 ovoid stout, 2 very small, 3–10 serrate, 3 and 10 smaller than the rest, 11 lanceolate. *Prothorax*: apex rounded, narrower than head, sides widest at base, nearly straight at basal fourth, thence sharply narrowed, and devolute to apex, margins only near base evident from above, disk uniformly, very minutely and densely punctate, and rather thickly pilose with short, upright hair. *Scutellum* large and oval. *Elytra* little wider than prothorax, sides nearly straight for two-thirds of length; striate, without defined punctures in striae, intervals nearly flat at middle, more convex at base and apex; very minutely punctate with feeble transverse strigae, surface closely pilose, underside impunctate and pubescent. Coxae approximate. *Dim.* 15 × 3½ mm.

Hab.—Victoria: Healesville (F. E. Wilson).

A single example taken by my friend is clearly allied to *E. serraticornis* Cart., from which it differs in colour, more elongate and less convex form and denser clothing. Holotype in Coll. Wilson.

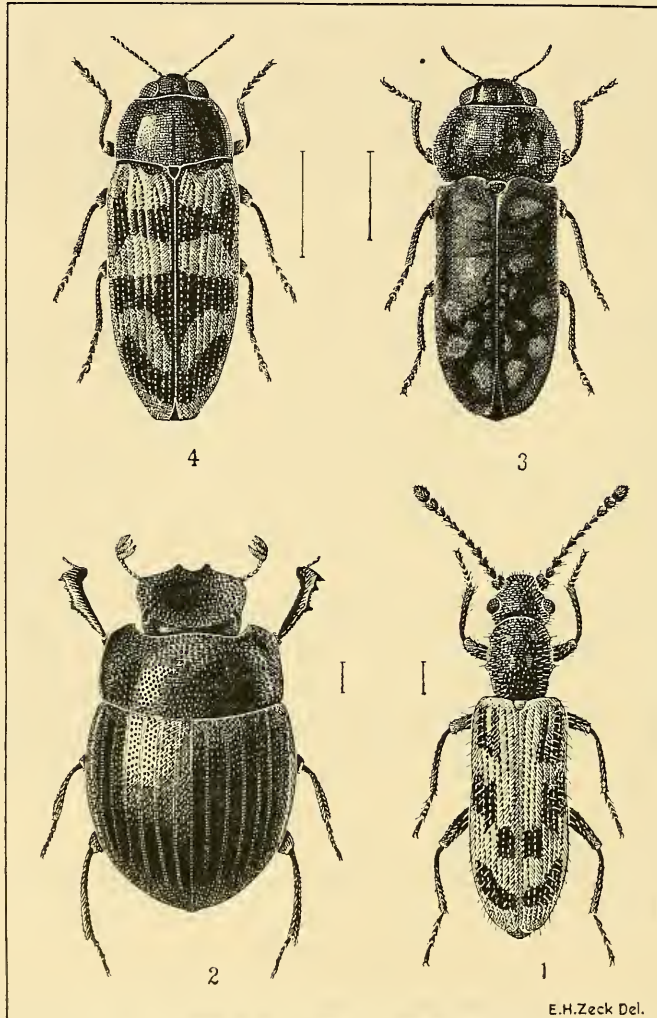
SCARABAEIDAE.

PANELUS HOPSONI, n. sp. Text-fig. 2.

Ovate; piceous-black, sides of head, narrow margin of apical third of prothorax, also underside and legs red; antennae and palpi testaceous.

Head wide, basal two-thirds rounded, sides subangulately narrowed towards apex, clypeus bidentate, the triangular teeth limiting a circular excision; whole surface with close, round, cellulose punctures; antennae 10-segmented with trimellate club. *Prothorax*: apex arcuate-emarginate, anterior angles subacute, sides lightly obliquely widened from base to apical third, thence abruptly narrowed to apex; posterior angles obsolete (rounded off); surface with round punctures larger and slightly less dense than on head. *Scutellum* none. *Elytra* widest at middle, each with six rows of finely impressed, geminate striae, without visible punctures; intervals flat and finely, not closely, punctulate, the two nearest

suture sublaevigate. Tibiae carinate and bowed, the anterior tridentate at apex. Underside closely, not coarsely, punctate, the apical segment of abdomen with large punctures. *Dim.* $4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.



1.—*Hymaea parallela*, n. sp.
2.—*Panelus hopsoni*, n. sp.

3.—*Cisseis goerlingi*, n. sp.
4.—*Stigmodera (Castiarina) truncata*, n. sp.

Hab.—N.S.W.: Barrington Tops (H. J. Carter).

I took one example in rotting leaves in January, 1927, which I dedicate to the memory of John Hopson, the late naturalist of this region, whose help and friendship were delightful concomitants of a beautiful district. It is the largest of described Australian species, distinguished from *P. bidentatus* Wilson by the distinct geminate striae of its elytra. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

PANELUS POLITUS, n. sp.

Castaneous, highly polished, hind margins of prothorax infusate, and parts of elytra feebly so, antennae testaceous.

Head shaped like the ace of spades (with a rounded base and a bidentate apex), the clypeal teeth acutely produced and a little recurved, their interspace triangular. Sides of head foliate and concave; surface finely, not closely, punctulate. *Prothorax* widely transverse and subrectangular, apex lightly bisinuate, base arcuate, sides nearly straight for basal three-quarters, thence abruptly and strongly narrowed to the widely obtuse and scarcely emarginate front angles; disk uniformly punctulate, the punctures much larger than on head. *Elytra* widely ovate and convex, with about six fine, but distinctly impressed, striae, the two nearest suture on each geminate (two very fine close striae, the rest single); intervals flat and apparently impunctate. Tibiae bicarinate and strongly arched externally, less arched internally, fore tibiae tridentate at apex. *Dim.* 3×2 mm. (approx.).

Hab.—N.S.W.: Dorrigo (W. Heron).

A species characterized by its polished and almost glabrous (even to the legs) surface, while the subfoliate head is peculiar. It is nearest to *P. pisoniae* Lea in colour and size, but differs in the more evident striae and laevigate intervals of elytra. *P. pisoniae* is also said to have bidentate front tibiae, but this may be sexual. I have a short note on it from the late A. M. Lea, as to its distinction from his species. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

A cotype of *P. pisoniae* Lea, sent for examination by Mr. Womersley, is less than $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long, more convex than *P. politus*, with clearly impressed punctate striae. The clypeal teeth are shorter, the head itself less elongate, the foliate sides obliquely revolute.

The five Australian species may be tabulated as follows:

Panelus.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Elytra with geminate striae | 2 |
| Elytra with single striae | 3 |
| 2. Posterior angles of prothorax obsolete, 4 mm. long | <i>hopsoni</i> , n. sp. |
| Posterior angles of prothorax obtuse, 2 mm. long ... | <i>pygmaeus</i> MacL.; <i>arthuri</i> Blckb. |
| 3. Colour black, with red spots | <i>bidentatus</i> Wils. |
| Colour red or castaneous | 4 |
| 4. Head gently concave, elytral striae faint | <i>pisoniae</i> Lea. |
| Head concave at sides, elytral striae distinct | <i>politus</i> , n. sp. |

PEDARIA INTERRUPTA, n. sp.

Black, nitid, antennae and tarsi reddish, upper surface sparsely setose, the setae short and bristly.

Head subvertical, very wide and flat, coarsely punctate, clypeus obtusely bidentate, with widely arcuate bay. *Prothorax*: apex and base subequally wide, the former lightly arcuate-emarginate, anterior angles slightly advanced and rounded, the arcuate base more or less parallel to apex, sides sinuate, with a light medial enlargement; disk with a few smooth prominent rugae, surrounded by irregular coarse punctures having a longitudinal tendency. A wide depression at middle of basal half, bounded by oblique rugae. *Elytra* rather squarely ovate, the suture forming twin carinae enclosing fine striae: on each elytron three rows of longitudinal pustules, these more elongate on inside row, smaller and more distant on outer rows; a well-defined costiform pustule near each shoulder; intervals between these rows containing two pairs of well-marked geminate striae, the striae becoming undulate towards apex. Whole underside. (including front femora) very coarsely punctate, the mesosternum carinate, with two rows of very large transverse punctures on each flank, anterior tibiae tridentate, the three teeth rather wide apart, post tibiae widely triangular. *Dim.* 4×2.5 mm.

Hab.—Queensland: Benarkin (L. Wassell), Bundaberg (C. Bates).

Two examples in my cabinet differ from the two described Australian species (*geminata* MacI. and *alternata* Lea) by the elytral sculpture with its interrupted costae and the more strongly defined geminate striae. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

PEDARIA METALLICA, n. sp.

Nitid, head violet-bronze, prothorax and elytra dark blue, the former with metallic gleams, upper surface with short, sparse, bristly setae of a whitish colour, underside and legs coppery-bronze, glabrous, antennae pale red.

Head wide and rather flat, its basal two-thirds subparallel, thence obliquely narrowed to the bidentate clypeus, this with two triangular teeth, separated by an arcuate bay, surface coarsely punctate, with an undulate ridge traversing the forehead, clypeus and margins subhorizontal. *Prothorax* strongly transverse, apex nearly straight for the greater part, anterior angles advanced and acute, sides feebly rounded at middle, abruptly, arcuately, narrowed near front angle, widely rounded off behind, base arcuate; disk moderately convex and uneven, a wide, subtriangular depression having its apex at middle of base and bounded by wide, oblique, almost impunctate, rugae; the depression and lateral regions strongly and rather closely punctate, the medial apical half very sparsely and coarsely punctate. *Elytra* oblong-ovate, each with 8 pairs of geminate carinae, besides a pair of sutural carinae more widely separated than the rest, the 2nd and 4th intervals with setiferous punctures, the 3rd with one or two elongate pustules; setae more evident at sides and apex. *Metasternum* with sparse, foveate punctures at base and sides, abdomen and femora with close round punctures. Front tibiae with three well separated teeth at apex, hind tibiae widely triangular. *Dim.* $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ mm.

Hab.—N.S.W.: Clarence River (Macleay Museum).

A single example in the Macleay Museum has no record of capture, except the printed locality label. It is clearly distinct from other described species, not only by its metallic surface, but by the elytral sculpture, with the well raised but fine geminate carinae. A second example, from Stanthorpe, Queensland (E. Sutton), sent for determination, is in the Queensland Museum. Holotype in the Macleay Museum.

The four recorded Australian species may be tabulated as follows:

Pedaria Castelnau.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Colour black | 2 |
| Colour metallic | <i>metallica</i> , n. sp. |
| 2. Elytra without pustules | <i>alternata</i> Lea. |
| Elytra with pustules | 3 |
| 3. Elytral pustules small and round | <i>geminata</i> MacI. |
| Elytral pustules elongate and costiform | <i>interrupta</i> , n. sp. |

BUPRESTIDAE.

MELOBASIS IMPRESSA, n. sp.

Elongate-ovate; nitid, concolorous coppery bronze; somewhat explanate, more or less pubescent.

Head densely punctate, with smooth medial space terminating behind in a fine sulcus; sparse pubescence consisting of long silvery hair. Eyes large, moderately prominent. *Prothorax*: apex lightly, base more strongly bisinuate, widest behind middle, sides well rounded, narrowed to the acutely-produced anterior angles, a little sinuate before the subrectangular hind angles; disk finely

and irregularly punctate, with silvery hair, sparse in middle, more dense at sides; a medial carina feebly indicated, an oval depression near each lateral margin behind middle. *Scutellum* rather small, nodulose (or subcarinate) in middle. *Elytra* slightly wider at shoulders than prothorax, sides subparallel on basal half, thence narrowed behind, subapical margins serrulate, extreme apices rounded, extreme border evident from above throughout; disk irregularly impressed and punctate, each with four large impressions, the first behind humeral angle, the second, transversely oval, premedial, a subelongate postmedial one and a lighter depression between the two former; the depressions bounded by light vermiculate rugosity; two more clearly defined, straggly costae extending from the postmedial impression to apex; everywhere variably punctate, the punctures in general round and distinct, those near suture showing a subseriate tendency. A sparse pubescence near shoulders and margins. Underside densely punctate, sparsely pubescent. *Dim.* 15 × 5 mm.

Hab.—Western Australia: Wurarga district (Mr. A. Goerling).

Four examples, sent by Mr. Goerling, of Marloo Station, Wurarga, show a species that is unique in sculpture, though deviating less from the normal than *M. abnormis* Cart. The elytra at first appear to have been slightly crushed by pressure, but the symmetry of the impressions disproves this. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

MELOBASIS WANNERUA, n. sp.

Convex, oblong; head, prothorax, underside and legs golden-green, elytra brassy, greenish at sides and base, tarsi and antennae blue.

Head densely, finely punctate, with indistinct short pubescence. *Prothorax*: apex and base subtruncate, base very feebly bisinuate; sides lightly, arcuately narrowed from base to apex, anterior angles obtuse, posterior subrectangular; disk very minutely punctate, finely strigose at sides; two shallow foveae in front of middle, medial line indicated only at base and apex. *Scutellum* small, depressed. *Elytra*: sides almost straight, apical third with margins denticulate; striate-punctate, intervals nearly flat, those near suture slightly rounded, the stria punctures irregular, the general surface transversely wrinkled, feebly concave near suture. *Prosternum* densely punctate near front, more sparsely behind, metasternum sparsely and finely punctate, abdomen closely and finely, the apical segment densely so and truncate at apex between two strong spines. *Dim.* 10 × 4 mm.

Hab.—Western Australia: Wanneru (H. W. Brown).

Two examples under examination, both ♂, show an approach to *M. derbyensis* Blkb. in colour and the striate-punctate elytra (rather uncommon in the genus). Mr. Clark has kindly compared it with the type of Blackburn's species, and the following distinctions are noted:

<i>derbyensis</i> Blkb.	<i>wannerua</i> , n. sp.
<i>Head</i> at eyes wider than base of prothorax; clothed with white recumbent hair.	narrower than base of prothorax; feebly pubescent.
<i>Prothorax</i> sides well rounded, and more elongate.	sides feebly rounded, less elongate.
<i>Elytra</i> strongly depressed at base.	scarcely depressed.
<i>Colour</i> golden-bronze throughout.	green, elytra brassy-green.

Holotype in Coll. Carter.

CISSEIS GOERLINGI, n. sp. Text-fig. 3.

Elongate, parallel; head coppery-bronze, pronotum opaque bluish, with lateral pubescence, elytra blue with white pubescent spots. Underside metallic bronze with green and metallic reflections.

Head very finely punctate, with shallow longitudinal sulcus at base, feebly pubescent. *Prothorax* convex, strongly transverse, widest at middle, apex lightly arcuate, base bisinuate, sides widely rounded, lateral carinae parallel for the greater part, meeting behind at a sharp angle, with a subobsolete, white pubescent vitta above carinae; disk finely, transversely striolate, with two circular depressions, with faint signs of white flocculence. *Scutellum* transverse, bronze. *Elytra* not as wide as prothorax at its widest part, and more than thrice as long; subparallel for the greater part, each separately, and rather widely, rounded at apex; subapical margins minutely serrulate, as also margins of abdomen. Disk with 6 large round, white pubescent spots and faint indications of a subapical pair; suture near base coppery. Segments of abdomen with white lateral impressions. *Dim.* 14 × 5.5 mm.

Hab.—Western Australia: Wurarga (Mr. A. Goerling).

Four examples examined. It belongs to my Section 1 (These Proc., 1923, p. 163), but is distinguished from all recorded species by its wide prothorax with elongate, parallel elytra narrower than prothorax. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

ANILARA SUBIMPRESSA, n. sp.

Oblong-oval; nitid bright bronze above, underside and appendages obscure bronze.

Head uniformly convex, eyes not prominent, widely separated, surface finely scalose-punctate. *Prothorax* transversely convex, apex and base nearly straight, the latter lightly bisinuate; widest in front of middle, sides here well rounded, thence arcuately narrowed to apex, behind nearly straight; disk finely punctate in middle, transversely rugose towards base, alveolate punctate at sides, a large depression near each side at middle. *Scutellum* elongate-ovate, punctulate. *Elytra* of same width as prothorax at base, feebly compressed behind shoulders, sides nearly straight for the greater part, widely, separately rounded at apex, subapical margins serrulate, abdominal margins more coarsely serrate; a subcostate impression originating at shoulders obliquely inclined inwards to basal third, thence gradually obsolescent, tending towards, but not reaching suture; a second short, subobsolete impression at base, between the former and scutellum; surface scalose-punctate, strongest at sides and apex. *Underside* finely alveolate punctate; *mentum* subrectangular, minutely, transversely striolate. *Dim.* 4.5 × 2 mm.

Hab.—Western Australia: Tammin (H. W. Brown).

Four examples sent are clearly distinct from *A. subcostatus* Blkb., the only other subcostate species, by smaller size, brighter colour, and finer sculpture. The undersides of the two are widely different, especially the mentum, which is granulose in *subcostatum*. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

STIGMODERA (CASTIARINA) TRUNCATA, n. sp. Text-fig. 4.

Elongate, oblong, rather flat. Head and pronotum dark greenish-bronze, elytra yellow with basal margin, two fasciae and preapical mark greenish-blue, the premedial fascia bifurcating laterally, its forward branch extending to basal margin at the shoulders, lateral margins sanguineous throughout. Underside and legs dark olive-green, with some bronze reflections.

Head finely punctate, with shallow medial sulcus. *Prothorax* widest at base, thence lightly and arcuately narrowed to apex; apex and base very lightly bisinuate, anterior angles unseen from above, hind angles subacute; densely and finely punctate on disk, with smooth medial line terminating behind in a small fovea. *Scutellum* subcordate, depressed in middle and impunctate. *Elytra* enlarged at shoulders, compressed behind them, apices truncate, the margins everywhere entire: striate-punctate, the seriate punctures round and regular, becoming smaller toward apex; intervals nearly flat and transversely wrinkled, those on lateral half finely and closely punctate. *Prosternum* strongly, *metasternum* finely punctate, *abdomen* rather densely clad with recumbent white hair. *Dim.* 14–15 × 5½ mm.

Hab.—Western Australia: Moore's River (H. W. Brown).

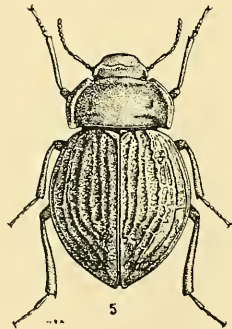
Mr. Brown still succeeds in finding new species of his favourite group in Western Australia. Two examples (one returned to its captor) belong to Section XIV of my tabulation (*Aust. Zool.*, 1931, p. 365) near *S. cupreoflava* Saund., but the dark parts more or less olive-green, the truncate apices and sanguineous sides of elytra readily separate it from its neighbours. In one of the examples the dark areas predominate, i.e. fasciae and preapical mark are wider. There is no external character to denote sex. Holotype in Coll. Carter.

TENEBRIONIDAE.

NYCTOZOILUS SUBSCULPTUS, n. sp. Text-fig. 5.

Widely ovate, convex; dull black above and below, tarsi with red tomentum beneath.

Head rather closely and finely punctate; epistoma rounded in front and meeting antennal orbit at a wide angle, the latter subhorizontal, an elongate depression near base; antennae extending to base of prothorax, 3rd segment longer than 4–5 combined, 8–11 less enlarged than usual. *Prothorax* 4 × 8.3 mm., apex arcuate-emarginate, anterior angles subacute, base subtruncate, posterior angles obtuse, not produced, sides rather widely rounded without sinuation, widest near middle. Foliate margins wide and subhorizontal, with a very thin border, disk smooth, without distinct punctures, some undefined foveae near middle, and



5.—*Nyctozoilus subsculptus*, n. sp.

a slight transverse depression near base. *Scutellum* transversely triangular. *Elytra* widest behind middle, not much longer than wide (11 × 9½ mm.), a row of punctures within a subobsolete border, surface with vague costae, about four on each, connected by equally vague vermiculations, the suture slightly raised and

